

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 2, 1972

Dear Mr. Rangel:

It was a great pleasure to meet you at the recent luncheon for Ambassador Schurmann and I am only sorry that the necessity of your returning to Capitol Hill prevented us from having a longer conversation.

In your letter to me of February 22 you requested information concerning the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the war against narcotics production, processing and trafficking. I must apologize for the slight delay in responding, but I hope the following information will be responsive to your inquiry.

CIA's role in international narcotics control has been to provide continuous intelligence support to the overall U.S. Government effort to stem the flow of heroin into the United States. Its formal program to this end began in October, 1969, when the President declared international narcotics control to be a major goal of U.S. foreign policy and instructed all Federal departments and agencies, including the intelligence agencies, to cooperate fully with a newly formed White House Task Force on Heroin Suppression.

From the outset, CIA has had two basic missions: 1) to provide U.S. enforcement authorities information on narcotics traffickers abroad who are involved in manufacturing and smuggling heroin into the United States, and 2) to develop programs in support of the U.S. Government's worldwide diplomatic effort to encourage other countries to develop programs of their own designed to suppress the production, movement and consumption of narcotics.

Since 1969 CIA has expanded its intelligence support activities to answer the priority requirements of the White House Task Force and its member agencies. To cite one example, CIA took the lead in monitoring the production and movement of narcotics in Southeast Asia in order to detect any move on the part of international traffickers to turn to that region for their narcotics supply for the United States market.

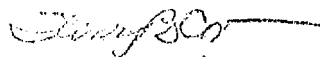
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This which enabled CIA to provide extensive support to U.S. missions in Southeast Asia during the summer of 1971 when they were developing strategies and programs to interdict the supply of opium and heroin to U.S. forces in Vietnam.

With the establishment by the President of the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control in August, 1971, CIA was assigned a larger role in providing intelligence support to U.S. initiatives abroad and in coordinating collection of clandestine intelligence by all of the U.S. agencies involved in the anti-narcotics campaign.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

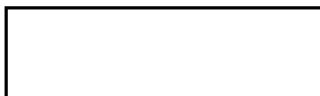
Sincerely yours,



Henry B. Cox
Director, Public and Congressional
Relations for the Cabinet Committee
on International Narcotics Control

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
The House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

bcc:



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